

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 6/10/09, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener

Also Present: Bob Radochia, Columbia Road, left at 7:45. Eileen Mahoney, Sal LaGraziano, Maria Romano, a resident who would not give her name, Laura Nastasi, Noreen Conroy arrived at around 8 pm.

1. Public Comments. Bob Radochia of Columbia Road spoke about recent "School Zone" changes on Columbia Road. He thinks there is too much signage for this dead end street with little traffic. Elisabeth responded that the Town is required to add signage in order to make a school zone. Mr. Radochia inquired about Stowecroft, which has more traffic but few signs. Ed responded that Stowecroft isn't part of the School Zone because there is no school door onto Stowecroft, and part of it is private, though it was agreed that more signage is needed there. Mike will be asked to look into signs on Columbia and see where modifications can be made.
2. Administration.
Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
3. Germaine Lawrence. Jeff met with the Executive Director, and Corey spoke with some of the neighbors. Neighbors feel that there is a lack of parking management by the school. It appears that most of the employees park around the perimeter of the school. There are no reported accidents. Jeff and John are working on recommendations for a vote by TAC next month. Recommendations might include replacing the curb at Wollaston and Hillside, and implementing a parking sticker program.
4. Westminster. Recommendations for the Westminster curve are almost ready. Trees are being evaluated, as well as roadway grading. Mike, Jeff, and Elisabeth met with the Lexington Town Engineer, who acknowledges that the Lowell Street/Westminster Avenue intersection is a problem, and has drafted a proposed plan for improvements.
5. Park Ave. and Paul Revere Road. Corey reported that there have been 8 accidents in the past 3 years in and around this intersection. The cross traffic volume is light. Further discussion next month.
6. Stop Sign on Forest St. at Park Ave. Extension. Jeff reported that the stop bar is very far back from the intersection, with limited visibility, causing cars to creep into crosswalk in order to see. A curb extension would keep cars out of the crosswalk.
7. Yerxa Rd. and Hemlock. Ed will bring photos to next meeting.
8. Spy Pond Park/Pond Lane. A request came via the Selectmen with a concern about pedestrian safety on Pond Lane and around Spy Pond Park. Both Jean and Scott had comments. Howard volunteered to lead the effort.
9. Crosswalk at Cusack Towers on Summer. Request for crosswalk. Corey and others felt that this is not a good location to add a crosswalk because of an existing crosswalk at Victoria Rd, and proximity to signalized intersection. Vote next month.
10. Schools.
 - a. Brackett. This is the last school under Safe Routes to Schools. Looking to create a second drop off point on Fayette St. Parent volunteers are needed.
 - b. Stratton. The horseshoe is being used for drop-off. Parent volunteers are needed. Jeff met with parents group to promote. Principal is proposing a path to the back of the school, where many students enter in the morning. Might be easy to do with asphalt. Sidewalk on Mountain Rd. between Dickson and Wheeler is a high priority.

- c. Hardy. There has been increased walking and biking as a result of the Biking to School Pilot Program.
- d. Peirce. Phase 1b recommendations were adopted by Selectmen.
- 11. Winslow. Jean did a preliminary assessment and will follow up by going to a tenant meeting June 24. The requested mid block crosswalk crossing Mystic Street to Russell Common does not appear to be warranted or recommended for safety reasons. Possible adjustments to traffic signal timing should be studied.
- 12. Update: Mass. Corridor. Scott reported on changes to the Review Committee, 2 appointees by each Selectman. First meeting is 6/16. Following the last Review Committee meeting, current plans show 2 lanes eastbound, one lane westbound, flush textured medians, somewhat narrowed in eastward locations, painted bike lanes, Foster and Teel lights retained. Bates light is still not finalized, but if it does stay in the plan, should be coordinated with Linwood light. Laura reported on recent Mass. Highway meeting, in which their feedback was that the Town should propose what we want, including keeping unwarranted lights, and they will consider it. Town has requested that the project be moved to 2011 TIP, from 2010.
- 13. SRTS at Dallin. Jeff reported that there is opposition to removing the tree on Florence St. He suggests that the sidewalk stay for now. Recommends adding sidewalk on Florence on east side side from Waverley to Wachusett instead. He hasl written a letter to the consultant to change the project scope. Work should happen this summer.
- 14. Downing Square Report and Design. Elisabeth has completed the update portion of the report for the Board of Selectmen. Recommendations will soon follow.
- 15. Chestnut/Medford. Two crosswalks need thermoplastic.
- 16. Public Comments. Eileen Mahoney told the Committee that speeding on Bates Road has increased, and asked why a new double yellow line was painted there. Also asked about truck exclusion. Scott responded that the Town cannot set speed limits or exclude trucks, that Bates was marked in keeping with national standards for markings. Ed noted that if residents want to ask for study of speed or other issues they should start by requesting writing to the Selectmen.
- 17. Mass. Ave./Lowell St. Corey collected traffic data on Lowell Street. Speeds clocked at 31 in one direction and 41 in the other. Elisabeth reported some initial findings on the history of the site.
- 18. Town Reports. Laura reported that she received a packet of recommendation on the Alewife area from Central Transportation Planning Staff at EOT. She will forward it to committee. Also, there will be a workshop on parking and economic development in the Town Hall on 6/16, sponsored by MAPC and State DHCD, open to the public.
- 19. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: Agenda, 6/10/09; Memo from Selectmen re. Pedestrian Safety on Pond Lane and Spy Pond Park, dated May19, 2009; Letter from Brett and Aimee Miller re. Pedestrian Safety on Pond Lane and Spy Pond Park, dated April 23, 2009; Memo from Selectmen re. Stop Sign Requests @ Yerxa Road and Hemlock Street, Winchester Road and Hutchinson Road, dated May19, 2009; Letter from Leigh Benowitz dated May 11, 2009; Project Status, dated 6/10/09; Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 6/10/09; Status of Outstanding Actions, 6/10/09; and TAC Report—Status of Winter Street and Oxford Street Approved Improvements, May 29, 2009.

Truck Exclusions, Town of Arlington, as of June 15, 2009

Transportation Advisory Committee, Winslow Towers Transportation Issues, June 10, 2009

Westminster Curve Base Plan